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STATES-ITEM

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Well Aware Odom Exists, Garrison Says

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison said today that he is well aware of the existence of a person by the name of Lee Odom, the man whose name appeared with the address P. O. Box 19106, Dallas, Tex., in Clay Shaw's address book.

Garrison said Friday that the same P. O. number also appeared in the notebook of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and that the two numbers, decoded, were the unpublished 1963 telephone number of Jack Ruby, the man who shot Oswald.

Odom was found in a Dallas suburb and interviewed. He confirmed Clay Shaw's story that he and Odom had known each other only briefly in 1966.

Garrison issued the following statement:

"WE ARE WELL AWARE THAT THERE is a Mr. Lee Odom. As a matter of fact, he lives in Irving, Tex., just outside of Dallas. This is the suburb in which Ruth Paine and Marina Oswald lived while Lee Oswald was working at the book depository in Dallas. Mr. Odom's post office box number there now is P. O. 174.

"The fact that there is a real Lee Odom, however, is not the point. The point is that Clay Shaw and Lee Oswald have the same post office box number in their address books and this is in coded form, the unpublished phone number of Jack Ruby in 1963. The fact that someone acquired the post office box when it came into existence in late 1965 does not change the oddity of that circumstance at all.

"We are very interested in knowing who introduced Mr. Odom to Mr. Shaw, how many bullfights Mr. Odom has actually produced and a few other things. We are particularly interested in clarifying now why there is also coded in Lee Oswald's address book the local phone number of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"We have had evidence for some time that in Dallas, Tex., Jack Ruby was working for the CIA at the same time Lee Oswald was working for the CIA here.

"This means that the CIA well knew that these two men knew each other. We also have evidence that Lee Oswald was not the only man in Dealey Plaza who was an employee of the CIA and now we have found the phone number of the CIA in the front of Lee Oswald's address book.

"Since it is obvious that it is no longer possible to get the truth in any form from officials of the CIA agency in Washington, no matter how highly placed, we are looking forward to talking to this businessman from Irving, Tex., about some of these coincidences."